THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news-items under reference is a report on the "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996" which was part of the omnibus Authorization Bill passed by the US Congress and signed by the US President on September 30, 1996 from which date it comes into force. It is reported that the process of framing rules for implementation of this Act is still underway. The Law applies to all foreign nationals staying in the US beyond periods authorized in their non-immigrant visa. The Law does not target Indians specifically and those stating in the US legally are not affected by the law.

(d) Government are alert to all development having implications for Indian citizens abroad, including in the US.

Manuscripts on Siddha

2257. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that manuscripts on "Siddha" system written in Tamil had been taken away by Germans about 300 years ago from Tamil Nadu and kept in Martin Luther University in Germany;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take immediate action to retrieve those Tamil manuscripts for use in our country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected. It will be laid on the table of the Sabha as soon as available.

Re-registration and Re-certification of Doctors

2258. Lt. Gen. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enact legislation to take re-registration and re-certification of doctors mandatory every five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to change the syllabus of Under-graduate and Post-graduate courses to improve the standards of medical education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Committee on Sub-ordinate Legislation (10th Lok Sabha) in its 13th Report had recommended that the Central Government/Medical Council of India should prescribe for a compulsory renewal of registration by doctors every five years. The Committee was informed that there will be administrative difficulties in the renewal of registration of about 4.5 lakh practitioners all over the country, particularly, where Medical Council of India (MCI) does not have adequate *wherewithal* and the State Medical Councils are also not fully geared up to undertake this responsibility. However, the modalities of meeting this requirement is being examined by the M.C.I.

(c) and (d) The Medical Council of India Recommendations on Graduate Medical Education containing curriculum of M.B.B.S. course has been approved by Central Government as a regulation under Section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and this has been conveyed to M.C.I. on 4th March, 1997. The detailed syllabus for post-graduate courses on each subject is prepared by the Universities.

Improvement in Road Sector

2259. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay in issuing guidelines for private enterprises has slowed down investment in road sector;

(b) wherther the Government have been urged to finance the national highway projects and also that efforts should be made to make more funds available through alternative means;

(c) whether the Ministry had earlier devised prolonged strategy i.e. augmenting Central Road Fund, private sector participation and enhancement of vehicle registration fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all these schemes have not been implemented so far, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the road sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) A Revised Resolution for augmenting the Central Road Fund has been passed by the two Houses of Parliament in the year 1988. However, its implementation is still under the consideration of the Government. As regards private sector participation, the Government has recently approved guidelines for taking projects under BOT to attract private investments in the